

## *What's New on the Career Front*

### *Engineering And Support Center, Huntsville* **The Corps Has It's Own Defense Acquisition University (DAU) Registrar**

Her name is Jean Neill and she can be reached at 205-895-7423. Jean is assigned to the USACE Professional Development Support Center in Huntsville, AL. She is the full-time Registrar assigned to assist the Corps of Engineers Acquisition Workforce in obtaining DAU mandatory training and works closely with all local Training Coordinators and the PARC office.

Jean has done an outstanding job securing quotas in required courses and making Corps employees aware of training opportunities. She follows through with all the details such as tracking quotas, reviewing and processing the training requests, assisting with cancellations and substitutions, and updating the Army Training Requirements Reporting System database. In addition to serving as the Registrar, she also serves as the liaison for the Corps with the U.S. Army Development and Acquisition Information systems Activity, the quota and money management organization. This gives her the opportunity to assist in filling Army training allocations when vacancies occur by offering more training opportunities to the Corps.

### **Spotlight on USACE Acquisition Workforce**

**Kansas City District** - CPT. Matt Riordan, Deputy Chief of Contracting, recently nominated for the Douglas McArthur Award, will receive the award from the Chief of Staff of the Army on 14 May at the Pentagon (1030 hours). CPT Riordan is the first winner USACE has had under the new format for the award.

### **Nominations for the Fiscal Year 1997 Secretary of the Army Award for Excellence in Contracting**

For the team awards there are two outstanding teams at our Huntsville Center, the Energy and Medical Acquisition Teams.

For the civilian outstanding Contracting Officer award there were two nominations; Ms. Ruth Anne Ijames from Sacramento and Ms. Cheryl Kunze from the Norfolk District.

### **Department of Defense Acquisition Workforce, Personnel Demonstration Project**

*By Teresa Wright-Johnson*

As part of the FY 96 DoD Authorization Act, the Department of Defense was given the authority, with approval of the Office of Personnel management, to conduct a personnel demonstration project (Demo) for the acquisition workforce. This authority is a critical piece of the larger Acquisition Reform effort. The objective of this Demo is to further enhance the quality, professionalism, and management of the DoD acquisition workforce through improvements of the Human Resources management system.

In September 1996, the Secretary of Defense delegated the authority to direct this program to the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition and Technology in coordination with the Under Secretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness. A Process Action Team (PAT) was created to develop the Demonstration Program Plan. Several broad areas have been addressed such as, broad banding, simplified classification system, contribution-based compensation and appraisal system, all skills training, workforce shaping and sabbaticals.

Last fall a decision was made by the Chief of Engineers to play in the demo project tentatively. However, participation is limited to the 1100 series only. The Chief also established a Task Force to explore the feasibility of USACE's participation.

The task force met on 10-11 February 1998. The two main objectives of the Task Force were to determine the potential benefit to USACE for participation by the acquisition workforce in the proposed demo; and to analyze field comments, address all issues, and formulate a recommendation for participation/non-participation. The Task Force was comprised of multi-discipline representatives from the PARC office, Human Resources, Military Program, South Atlantic Division, Lakes and Rivers Division, Southwestern Division and Mississippi Valley Division.

The results of the Task Force recommendations were briefed to the PARC and a follow-up briefing will be provided to the Chief before his final decision is rendered. Further information is forthcoming.